The National Committee ☆ Arts for the Handicapped

An educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

In June 1974, the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation providing the funding for a National Conference on Arts for the Mentally Retarded, which created a tremendous national interest in the concept of integrating the arts into the education of the mentally retarded child. As a result of several conferences and funding by the Kennedy Foundation and Alliance for Arts Education, a National Committee was organized to coordinate the development of a nationwide program of arts for *all* handicapped children. The National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped is composed of leaders from major national arts organizations, organizations representing handicapped citizens, general education organizations and private foundations. NCAH, an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, operates as the national coordinating agency for the development and implementation of arts programs for handicapped children and youth.

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"Only when every child in our society can be assured the opportunity to share in an appreciation of the arts, can all of us claim a share in the wonder of the talent, the creativity, and the joy of every child."

Jean Kennedy Smith
National Chairperson
Very Special Arts Festivals

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